

The Alabama Department of Public Health, in conjunction with the Department of Emergency Management and the Department of Human Resources, announces that in anticipation of the arrival of Hurricane Dennis, a limited number of medical needs shelters will be opened for individuals with certain medical conditions.

Medical needs shelters should only be utilized as a last resort by those persons who live at home with stable medical conditions that require the ongoing assistance of an at-home care provider and who need to relocate because of the storm and who do not have an alternative location and source of care. If possible, such persons should seek shelter at the home of a family member or friend. Examples of persons who may qualify for a medical needs shelter include the following:

Portable ventilator patients who require minimal assistance with ADLs

Intravenous therapy if managing at home with out complications

Stable --oxygen, nebulizer, or sleep apnea therapy that has been stable/maintained at home for 30 or more days.

Wheel chair bound patients who require minimal to moderate assistance with ADLs

Frequently incontinent person (urinary/bowel) requiring assistance with ADLs

Diabetics that require assistance in their insulin medication and/or require minimal to moderate assistance with ADLs

Simple dressing changes requiring assistance with ADLs

Peritoneal dialysis if self administrating or family assist without complications requiring assistance with ADLs

Mild dementia without abusive or wandering behavior requiring minimal to moderate assistance with ADLs

Mental illness/MR with non violent behavior requiring minimal to moderate assistance with ADLs

Ostomy patients that require minimal to moderate assistance with ADLs

Hospice patients that require minimal to moderate assistance with ALDs

Foley /supra-pubic catheter patients that require minimal to moderate assistance with ADLs and are stable

**ADLs --include activities that consist of bathing, dressing, eating, toileting, transfers and ambulation**

Persons seeking shelter in a medical needs shelter MUST be accompanied by one of their usual care providers and bring enough medications, other treatments, supplies and equipment to serve their needs for up to 72 hours.

Persons with more severe conditions, e.g., those on ventilators or with an unstable medical condition, should seek shelter or care at a hospital or other appropriate institution. Persons with stable, underlying medical conditions that do not require the assistance of a care provider should seek shelter in mass care shelters.

Medical needs shelters will be opened Saturday morning, July 9, 2005, at the following locations:

Montgomery--Fire Department on Ray Thorington Road at 10:00 A.M.

Prattville--124 South Memorial Drive (adjacent to Baptist Hospital) at 12:00 noon

Birmingham--Boutwell Auditorium at 7:00 A.M.

Dothan--First Baptist Church at 10:00 A.M.

Additional sites maybe named later.